



Elizabeth Ann Seton Program Newsletter

November 2009

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Donor Wall

Thanks a Million! Link to our donor page to see recent donors

Visit the Elizabeth Ann Seton Program Website

elizabethannsetonprogram.org
[What's new at EAS?](#)

Our Mission Statement

To embrace the sanctity and dignity of life by nurturing pregnant and parenting women.

Contact Us

Sheila Page, Executive Director
700 N. 7th Street, Suite B

EAS Receives Grants in Litchfield

Elizabeth Ann Seton Program is grateful to be the recipient of three grants during October and November. The grants, totaling \$7,593 were obtained through the Elizabeth S. Baker Foundation, the Corwin Foundation and Thriven for Lutherans. They will be used in the Litchfield area for parenting classes, operating costs and program supplies.

From the Executive Director

Following is a statistical overview of EAS participants from Springfield, Jacksonville, Litchfield, Beardstown and Chatham, Illinois. The total number of clients on record as being active: 266. (*Active is defined as a client having contact with EAS at least once within the last year*).

Total number of participants' children on record: 372

Statistical Information:

AGE

2%	Age 53-50
9%	Age 49-40
26%	Age 39-30
50%	Age 29-20
13%	Age 19 and below

MARITAL STATUS

5%	Separated
8%	Divorced
20%	Married
67%	Single

HOUSING

1%	Homeless
27%	Transitional (<i>not living in their own home, but with family or friends</i>)
72%	In own home

CHILDREN

1%	No children at home
36%	1 Child
33%	2 Children
18%	3 Children
8%	4 Children
2%	5 Children
2%	6 Children
<1%	7 or more children

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EAS Board of Directors

Maureen Farmer, President

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Local Programs

Springfield

Carolyn Werner

757-6025

Chatham

Karen Bedell

801-2030

Litchfield

Dawn Morris

324-3270

Beardstown

Teresa dela Cruz

415-8038

Jacksonville

Call EAS Headquarters

757-6025

EDUCATION

49% Some High School
13% GED completed
25% High School Diploma
10% Some College
3% College Degree

RACE

27% Hispanic
31% African American
40% Caucasian
2% Other Ethnic Backgrounds

EMPLOYMENT

11% Underemployed
24% Disabled
24% Employed (*41% employed only at part-time*)
42% Unemployed

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

24% Not Head of Household (*woman considers spouse/boyfriend or other relative they are living with as head of house*)
76% Head of Household

WIC participant

63% Yes
37% No

TANF (temporary assistance to needy families)

7% Yes
93% No

FOOD STAMPS

85% Yes
15% No

MEDICAL CARD

85% Yes
15% No

DISABILITY PAYMENTS

34% Yes
62% No
4% Family member in household receiving disability

YEARLY INCOME

20% No Income
3% \$1 - \$2,999
11% \$3,000 - \$4,999
7% \$5,000 - \$6,999
30% \$7,000 - \$8,999
11% \$9,000 - \$11,999
10% \$12,000 - \$14,999
5% \$15,000 - \$17,999
3% \$18,000 - \$20,000

Spotlight on Jacksonville

The Jacksonville area EAS program is holding its monthly educational meetings at the public library in Jacksonville. With our new coordinator, Karen Bedell, the participants will be able to receive consistent programming and services. Karen expects about 12 moms and 6 mentors to attend the December 3rd meeting. She is expanding efforts to reach out to the Jacksonville women by recruiting new mentors and by providing additional parenting resources.

'Tis the Season

With the holiday season approaching, we anticipate having a greater need for assistance to the parenting women in our program. The economy is still struggling, and we hear often from women who are homeless, hungry, or existing without any cash income. This holiday season could be bleak for many unless the caring and compassionate in our communities are willing and able to lend a helping hand.

Here are some suggestions for ways you may invest in the mission of the Elizabeth Ann Seton Program during the Christmas season:

For the parents:

Personal care items, such as body wash, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine products, combs, brushes, nail care, hand soap, new slippers, new winter gloves & scarves, gift bags with personal care items to be used for Christmas gifts

Household items, such as dishwashing soap, laundry detergent, laundry softener, general cleaning liquids, light bulbs, toilet tissue

For the children (the children range in age from newborn through high school):

Diapers (sizes 3-6), wipes, baby lotion, baby shampoo, diaper rash ointment, new or in great condition clothes, newborn & up, new socks, new underwear, hats & gloves, new or great condition baby equipment (pack 'n play, bouncer, etc.)

Books for all ages (new or in great condition), backpacks, new toys for Christmas gifts

If you have coupons for any food, formula, toys, or household items, EAS will be happy to use them to purchase supplies for the program or to give to the moms for their use.

Springfield EAS Forms New Partnerships

Mentoring and parenting, the heart of the Elizabeth Ann Seton Program's mission is the basis for two new partnerships in Springfield. EAS now partners with Contact Ministries in Springfield to provide parenting classes for the women housed in their shelter. The Springfield Coordinator, Carolyn Werner, goes to the shelter every Thursday morning to conduct the classes based on customized curriculum developed specifically for EAS, **Insights into Parenting**. Each week the women meet to discuss topics such as Self Esteem, Family Conflict, Communication, Ages and Stages and Discipline and Guidance. These women enroll in and receive services as participants in EAS.



12 Days of Christmas
Donations



Insights into Parenting

EAS and Contact Ministries is planning to work together to train and place mentors at the shelter. These mentors will receive EAS training and on-going support as mentors through EAS while mentoring the women at Contact Ministries. This cooperative effort is a win-win for both organizations.

A second partnership is in the planning stages for Springfield EAS and Abundant Faith Christian Center. Abundant Faith recognized a need within their congregation for women who could mentor the many young parenting women who attend the church. EAS will train mentors and provide services to the younger women who will enroll in EAS. This ministry through Abundant Faith and EAS is an ideal partnership for both entities.

Volunteer Spotlight

Wanted: Mentors and volunteers for the Elizabeth Ann Seton Program! Are you interested in becoming a volunteer for EAS? Volunteers may be involved in the program in several different ways. Go to elizabethannsetonprogram.org/MentoringEAS to learn more about our volunteers.

If you choose to become a mentor, The first step is to contact the EAS office at 757-6025 or easeton@sbcglobal.net. You will be asked to attend a four-hour training session. The training is a valuable tool that explains the mentoring process and how to build a meaningful relationship with one of the EAS women. Also included in the training are tips on effective communication, building self-esteem, problem solving, personal safety, and more. The training sessions are scheduled at various dated and times during the year. Here is the job description for a mentor in the EAS program:

To serve as a friend, support person, resource aide, and motivator to pregnant and parenting women in order to improve their lives and that of their children through practical guidance.

Won't you consider investing your time and talents in the future of our community by becoming a volunteer or mentor for EAS?

Mentor/Volunteer In-Service Held in Springfield

Four EAS volunteers and mentors attended an in-service workshop held Tuesday, October 27 in Springfield. The volunteers, led by Springfield Coordinator Carolyn Werner, discussed the kinds of community resources available to program participants. The "Family Yellow Pages", a resource produced by the Sangamon County Superintendent of Schools, provided the basis for discussion. The in-service also gave the mentors the opportunity to network, learn from one another, and raise questions about their mentoring experiences. Future Mentor In-service Workshops are planned for January 25, April 26, July 26 and October 25, 2010.

How you can help

How about throwing a party for EAS? Invite guests to your next birthday or anniversary party and ask for gifts for the Elizabeth Ann Seton Program. You can specify what types of gifts your guests should bring: if you want to focus on the children, you might suggest having them bring personal items for the children, such as socks & underwear along with a children's book for fun; or you may want to focus on the entire family by



To find out more on becoming a Mentor



More Quick and Easy ways to help!

bringing items for the household, such as kitchen supplies or cleaning supplies. Cash is always a hit at EAS, too – and that is really easy to wrap! However you wish to structure your party, your generosity is greatly appreciated by the EAS families.

Support Elizabeth Ann Seton Program

by donating online!



It's easy and safe. Go to www.elizabethannsetonprogram.org and click on "DONATE ONLINE NOW"